Integrating Data, Tools, and Science

Michael R. Berthold
KNIME.com GmbH, Zurich, Switzerland
and
University of Konstanz, Germany
Agenda

KNIME: 2004 – today

or

How we went out to build a data analysis workbench and ended up building something else...
Why KNIME?
Why?

- University Group - Research Focus:
  - Data Mining / Machine Learning
  - Explorative Methods
  - „...Sparking Ideas“ (...PKDD/ECML 2005)

- Need for platform to develop, test, deploy, and use new methods.
Requirements

- Modular & flexible
- Professional strength (industry collaborators)
- Highly scalable (dito)
- Easy to extend (legacy and third party tools)
„I am working on KNIME“

(PhD Student, 2004/2005)
„I am working with KNIME“

(PhD Students, 2006...)
June 2006:
First Open Source Release (v1.0)
What is KNIME?
The KNIME Platform
KNIME loads and integrates data from diverse data sources:
- Different data bases
- Various file formats (CSV, XML, SDF, etc.)
KNIME provides huge repository of modules for easy-to-use, modular
- Data preprocessing
- Data fusion
- Data transformation
In addition to standard data mining techniques, KNIME adds cutting edge data analysis algorithms. (...thanks to its academic roots)
Interactive views provide data overviews and insights into the learned models.

Interactive linking & brushing techniques allow for powerful exploration of models and data.
A peak under the hood

- **Java**
  - Runs on Linux, Windows, Mac
- **Eclipse plugin**
  - Extension wizard for own nodes
  - Simple installation of additional modules (text, image, time series, ... analysis)
- **Out of memory data handling**
  - Caches data to HD
  - Scales linearly (e.g. 200 - 20.000.000 images)
- **Support for multi threaded execution**
- **Architecture designed by professional SW engineer**
„But I have all those R scripts“
„Where is this algorithm? (Weka has it!)“
...re-invent the wheel?
Due to its open API and “node-in-a-sandbox”-approach additional (also external) tools are easily integrated, e.g.

- Access to the statistics tool R
- Complete integration of the machine learning library WEKA
- Application area specific integration, e.g. CDK (Chemical Development Kit)

KNIME is Eclipse-based: Integrating other Eclipse projects such as BIRT, DTP, etc. provides even more functionality
„We bought this wonderful tool“
Commercial Partners integrate their proprietary tools

⇒ KNIME serves as an integration platform for tools of various vendors
Some KNIME Partners

- CambridgeSoft
- Schrödinger
- Symyx Technologies
- Tripos
- ChemAxon (via Infocom)
- CDK
- Molecular Discovery
- Treweren
- Tibco / Spotfire
- ...  
- And others: BioSolve IT, CCG, ...
Partner Extensions at Work

Schrödinger

Tripos

Infocom

Symyx

Weka, R, ...
Partner Extensions at Work: Spotfire
Partner Extensions at Work: Spotfire
“I didn‘t mean someone else‘s tool - our own is so much better.
(nobody understands it anymore but everybody uses it)!“
Integration of Tools, cont.

- External Tool Node (launches shell commands)
- Web Service node
- New Node Wizard
  - for thin wrappers
  - for your own prototyping / development!
“Integrating Data, Tools, and Science”

Data: Integrate distributed & heterogeneous data sources
Tools: Integrate Open Source, Third Party and In-house Tools
Science: Standardize Analysis and Modeling Workflows
„Very nice, but…“

• „…I want to share workflows!“
• „…I want to run workflows on a server…“
• „…and our cluster!“
• „…I want to show the results to upper management!“
The Larger Picture

Knowledge Archival and Reuse

Loading & Integration → Preprocessing & Transformation → Analysis & Modeling → Visualization & Exploration

Result Deployment
Wait a second - is this still research?
June 2008:

KNIME.com GmbH
founded in Zurich, Switzerland
KNIME.com GmbH

Software & Services:
- Support for Open Source KNIME Platform
- Consulting
- Development:
  - Customizations
  - KNIME Extensions
  - Enterprise Components
Knowledge Archival and Reuse

• Workflow Repository:
  - predefined flows: standardization
  - Workflow archival: knowledge repository

• Metanode Repository:
  - workflow fragments: expert knowledge archive

⇒ KNIME Enterprise Server
  • Central corporate repository for workflows
  • User access control
  • Scheduled execution
  • Backend data processing engine for SOA integration
Enterprise Server

- Centralized, shared workflow repository
- Workflow groups for easier organization of repository
- Workflow Variables for parameterized execution
User Rights Management

- Controlled, fine granular access to workflows
- Connects to existing user authentication setup

![User Group Permission for the Workflow](image1)

![Server Workflow Access Permissions](image2)
Scheduled Execution

- Manual server side execution...
- ...or scheduled for automated, regular execution.
• Reports:
  - KNIME workflows load, aggregate, analyze data
  - Reports summarize and enrich workflow output (tables, graphs, images) - a BIRT integration, btw...
  - “one click” update for new data or parameters

⇒ KNIME Report Designer and Server
  • Provides access to KNIME workflows without exposing the underlying workflows and nodes
  • Templates created by expert
  • End users execute template and export report to desired format (PPT, DOC, PDF, HTML, …)
KNIME Report Server
• Models:
  - Export of Trained Models
• Workflows
  - Access to workflows from other applications

⇒ PMML Export of models
⇒ Access to workflows via web service calls
Just another

Data Analysis Workbench?
KNIME: the backbone of your data

Specialized Extensions
• Chemo and Bio Informatics
• Image Analysis
• Time Series, Text, ...
• ... Partner Tools

Analytics / Modeling
• Built-In Data Analytics
• R-Project
• Weka, LibSVM, CDK...
• ...Partner Tools

Exploration
• Interactive Views
• KNIME Reports
• ...Spotfire

Integration
• KWaaS

Information Backbone: KNIME Workflows

Collaboration
• KNIME Enterprise Server

Deployment
• KNIME Report Server
• PMML
• KWaaS

HPC
• Cluster Execution
• KNIME o.t. Cloud

Legacy SW
• Ext Tool
• WS / PP

Information Backbone:

• WS / PP
• Time Series, Text, ...
• ... Partner Tools
Status Quo

- KNIME 2.2.0 released (July 2010)
- >5,500 active users
  ~50% Life Science
  ~50% Business Intelligence, Analytics
- 10+ commercial partners
- Distributors in Japan, Italy, China, Brazil
- Since Aug 2010: Global Support and Distribution Agreement with CambridgeSoft
Integration!

- **Data**: form one view for all activities (transformation, modeling, analytics, reporting)
- **Tools**: open source and commercial (own and others)
- **Science (&Expertise)**: archive and reuse workflows

try it out - it’s free:

[www.knime.org](http://www.knime.org)